



Our texts: *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald, *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams and *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry

## A Level English Language and Literature

*Get ready for A Level English...*

**For your first task** we would like you to find an opinion article that discusses a topic you find interesting and have a point of view on.

Bring your chosen opinion article to our first lesson back – be prepared to tell us why you chose the article and what your view on the topic is... Happy article hunting!

Here are some web pages to get you started:

- <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/dec/30/the-60-most-read-opinion-pieces-of-2015>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/uk/commentisfree>
- <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/opinion/>
- <http://www.theweek.co.uk/news-opinion>

## Tips

- Twitter - follow writers and academics who blog about the English language or literature
- Keep a blog on your reading and what you have found; it is far easier than carrying around a big file—include nonfiction as well as fiction
- Read a couple of the set texts over the summer – remember to be successful you will need to read these a few times before the exams in order to have a really good understanding.
- Download the audio book of one of the texts – Listen and read at the same time
- Historical reading of specific periods in history – post-war Britain, 1920s America and the American South are good starting points
- Create a profile of an author you will be studying
- Research linguistic terminology and choose a selection of new terms and learn them
- Revise the different word classes—verbs, nouns, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, pronouns and determiners.
- Write a weekly reflection of what you have learnt each week – these notes can build up to some great revision notes.
- Listen to TED talks on literature and grammar to widen your understanding of the subject. This enables you to see what other people's perspectives are. You can listen to them online or download the app. Follow these links to get you started:
  - <https://www.ted.com/topics/literature>
  - <http://blog.ed.ted.com/2014/05/29/be-a-better-writer-in-15-minutes-4-ted-ed-lessons-on-grammar-and-word-choice/>



**“The English language is an arsenal of weapons; if you are going to brandish them without checking to see whether or not they are loaded you must expect to have them explode in your face from time to time.”**

*- Stephen Fry*



During your study of English Language and Literature over the next two years, you will utilise many linguistic and literary terms in your responses. Ensure you are happy and comfortable using the following list:

Noun	Verb
Adjective	Adverb
Metaphor	Simile
Personification	Imagery
Alliteration	Symbolism
Declarative	Imperative
Exclamatory	Interrogative
Emphatic positioning	Asyndetic list
Syndetic list	Polysyndetic list
Repetition	Semantic field

If you're unsure on any of them, research them online and then make flash cards to help you remember how to use them!

## How does the English Language develop?

Research which words have been added to the Oxford dictionary in the last three years. What do you find interesting about this?

Neology is the process of new word formation, including the following: blends, compounds, acronyms, initialisms and eponyms.

Using your research, are there any further neologisms that you can list from popular culture?



One of the first texts you will read in year 12 is Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*.

Ensure you get your copy and read it over the summer!

During your reading of each chapter, create two questions that could be used to test someone's understanding of it.

After reading each chapter, write a brief statement about what you think of each of the characters in that chapter.

Keep all of this work together to share when you return in September.

Watch the DiCaprio film version and note down any differences between the novel and the film.